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Nate Staniforth Amazes Audiences

By **Brandon Bennett**
Staff Writer

As part of the Lil' Sibs weekend, magician Nate Staniforth made an appearance in the ballroom on Saturday, November 6. The event was sponsored by the Student Union Board.

The ballroom was packed with students and their siblings eagerly anticipating the show. Nate began the night with a video. In the movie, Nate performed several card tricks. A volunteer stuck a card in the middle of the deck, and as the crowd watched, the card magically transitioned to the top of the deck.

The man of the hour then stepped up on the stage amidst a round of applause. He was very humble and laidback. He asked everyone in the audience to take out their cell phones and call a random person from their contacts. The first girl to answer had her mother on the line, who was then told to think of a card from a deck. The mother decided on the ten of hearts. To the audience's amazement, the one card that had been flipped upside down before the show, was the ten of hearts.

Despite the trick's relative simplicity, the crowd was hooked. Next, Nate called a volunteer up to the stage and put an anonymous item into the student's hands. Nate then acquired a dollar from

a member of the audience and proceeded to have two students sign it, tear it, and set it on fire. The student on stage then opened his hands, revealing the dollar.

He then moved onto a more dangerous trick. Nate swallowed a piece of string about four feet long, followed by five needles. The crowd watched in a mixture of horror and amazement as Nate drew the piece of string from his mouth with all five needles suspended on it.

Nate showed another video of a small show he performed for preschoolers. With a little help from his audience, Nate made several red foam balls disappear from his hands and reappear in various kids' hands. At the end of the video, Nate took the three balls in his hands. The preschoolers placed their hands on his, and over a dozen balls emerged.

After several more interesting tricks, one involving a prank phone call, Nate performed his final trick, making a long piece of string out of several shorter ones. Like most of his tricks, it was fairly simple, but amazed the audience nonetheless.

At the end of the show, junior business major Brian Kane said, "All of his tricks were really cool. Magic tricks are just amazing anyway." The show was a great success for Nate and the Lil' Sibs weekend.



Magician Nate Staniforth. (Courtesy of natestaniforth.com)

Improv Performs for Little Sibs

By **Patricia Roeder**
Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College Production Under Construction Improv Group performed in the Ballroom at 8 PM last Saturday. This performance was extra special because it was Little Sibs weekend at the Joe. As a result, the Improv group had a special challenge.

Because of the younger audience, the entertainers had to keep the humor at a "PG" rated level. If one of the improv members proved to be too vulgar or offensive, they would be shamed off the stage in humiliation. Fortunately for the homespun comedians, no one was shamed.

The Little Sibs audience definitely influenced the performances. During one game, "Talk Show," the host of the program had to rant about Disney Princesses.

Senior Art Major Andrew Dudich had to answer potentially difficult questions from the audience, such as "Why is Ariel so hot?" and "What do you think of Snow White living with all those

dwarfs?" "They were all good questions," admitted Dudich after the game was finished.

The Improv group played a variety of other games as well. There was a hysterical rendition of "When Harry Met Sally." In this version, two ultra nerds met at a convention and described their love for each other through a mixture of Star Wars, Zelda, and Superman references.

In another game, parents had to explain to a school principal why their kid had kicked his teacher in the shin. The show ended with a game of Freeze Tag, where any member could enter at any time. The game eventually became an off-color reenactment of the Wizard of Oz with a plot twist at the end. Overall, both the audience and the Improv members felt that the show was a success.

"I thought it was funny," said sophomore Bio/Chem Roger Michels. "My favorite part was when they acted out the same scene in different styles, such as Oprah."

Sophomore Biology major Alan Austin, who is part of the improv club, said "It went pretty

well and it was very fun to be a part of. Everyone improvised well. Jordan being Oprah was quite hilarious. The all in one voice thing was funny, but it's hard to do all together. You had to guess what everyone else was thinking. It's always interesting to improv as a group."

The Improv Group meets every Monday and Wednesday

in the theater at 8 PM to practice. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join. The Production Under Construction crew will perform after Thanksgiving on Friday, December 10th along with the Jazz Choir.

"I hope it goes better, and it's always good to keep getting better and better," Alan says about the upcoming Christmas show.



Patricia Roeder, Alan Austin, Amber Ritchie and Michael Weesner perform at improv show. (Courtesy of Patricia Roeder)



INPULSE Brings a Different Sound

By Dan Zimmer

Staff Writer

On Thursday, November 4th, Saint Joseph's College welcomed the highly awarded vocal band InPulse from Minnesota.

The band had a strong stage presence and offered a wonderful portal in the relatively new world of a cappella singing to campus.

The group has much recent success across the whole country receiving some of the best awards for this type of musical mastery. Most recently they won the Runner-Up award for "2009 Musical Act of the Year" by the Campus Activities Magazine Reader's Choice Awards, making them one of the hottest, most sought-after acts on the college market today.

Having trained at St. Olaf College and Concordia College the group's high standards has gotten them to where they are today. They all met there and found a love for what they are doing today. They have sold some 25,000 copies of their recordings including their debut album "Alone and Above". The album was nominated for Album of the Year by the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America, one

of the highest honors the band had earned.

The band includes Taylor Baggott, Andy Miller, Matt McDonald, and Ben Rudolph. All are gifted singers who have a background in teaching music. McDonald hails from Sydney, Australia, and while completing his Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance, he twice won the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Solo Competition and was a tour soloist with the world-renowned St. Olaf Choir.

"I am really honored," says McDonald. "The road has had many turns, but I love working with these guys the most."

This group is highly involved within its small community of vocal singers by creating a powerful sound that features stunning solos, exceptional harmonic blend, and driving rhythms. Their performance showcased the beauty and versatility of the human voice, and had hints of every genre from Pop to Rock, and Country to Hip-Hop, making them a very likable group for the Saint Joseph's College campus. Matt McDonald told KX of Bismarck, North Dakota,

"It's fun to see the audience reaction when they come and sort of see the sound, they're looking for drums, they're looking for a guitar, they're looking for bass, and then when we explain to them that it's all happening from the voices, I think it's almost kind of a magic trick, it's kind of a novelty for them to see all those drums and all that sound washing over them with just four guys with microphones in their mouths."

INPULSE plays an active part in the evolution of a cappella music through dynamic, original compositions and inventive arrangements of songs distinctive to the INPULSE sound. The group hopes to go as far as possible saying, "We want to take the a cappella "vocal band" sound into mainstream music and bring genuine musical artistry to today's pop culture."



Little Sibs Enjoy the College Life

By Jessica Ruschke

Staff Writer

The Student Union Board sponsored the Lil Sibs weekend, one of our campus traditions, November 5-7. Little siblings had the opportunity to stay on campus with their big sibling and participate in various activities throughout the weekend.

Friday evening the siblings registered, ate dinner in the cafeteria, participated in a scavenger hunt, and watched a performance by the improvisation group on campus, Production Under Construction. They then had the opportunity to visit Cup O' Joe which was open extra

hours for the weekend. Saturday included the football game, crafts and games, and magician Nate Staniforth.

On Sunday siblings had the opportunity to attend mass together followed by brunch in the cafeteria.

Student Union Board members helped work the event, and SUB President senior Elementary Education major Bridget McDermott along with executive board members sophomore Elementary Education major Katie Coryell, senior Elementary Education major Margaret Schmitt, junior English major Morgan Myers, and senior Biology-Chemistry major Mary

Kate Kenney and advisor John May planned all the activities and scheduled the magician. At least fifty siblings visited campus for the weekend.

"The Lil Sibs events were well-attended and seemed to be enjoyed," said McDermott. Freshman Biology-Chemistry major Shannon Sacksteder and her fifteen year old sister Whitney participated in the weekend. "My favorite event was the Improv performance simply because Whitney enjoyed it so much. We had a lot of laughs and a great time," said Sacksteder.

Freshman Computer Science and Religion/Theology double major Erik Benson and his eight

year old sister Meagan enjoyed watching the football game together. "They[little siblings] get to see the excitement and what it's like to be involved in campus sports. It's a different experience from high school sports," said Benson.

While the siblings enjoyed the many events on campus, they also enjoyed just being able to spend time together.

"The little sibs were able to bond and spend the night with their big sib on the college campus," said McDermott.

"We had a lot of laughs and a great time. I even introduced her to a couple of my college friends," said Sacksteder.

Benson also felt the event was a good experience. "It gets little kids in the family involved on campus and lets them see what it's like for their older brother or sister, especially for first year students. Their siblings were probably really missing them,"

Senior Physocology Major Caitlin Gierymski and Junior Political Science Major Chelsea Gierymski had their siblings Connoe and Chloe here for the weekend. Caitlin said, "They loved it. They had so much fun seeing how a college is, and they loved all the activities they were able to participate in. Plus, they loved that the caf is a buffet."



Freshman Biology/Chemistry major Shannon Sacksteder and her younger sister Whitney at the football game.
Photo Courtesy of: Jessica Ruschke



Connor and Chloe Gierymski with their big sister Caitlin at the football game.
Photo Courtesy of: Caitlin Gierymski.

Upcoming Events

November 16: SJC Student Art Shows

November 18- 5:30 PM - SJC Women's Basketball vs Oakland City

November 19- Thanksgiving Break!! Enjoy the week off!

November 24- 5:00 PM - SJC Women's Basketball vs Ferris State

November 25- HAPPY THANKSGIVING

November 28- 12:00 PM - Residence Halls Open

December 1-7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Charity Date Auction (Halleck Student Center Ballroom)

If there is an event that you want included in the Upcoming Events Box, please email adp7031.

The Love of My Life

By James Bertucci
Guest Writer

I may sound crazy (and most days I think I am), but it seems as if every day I fall more in love with our Lord Jesus, the Christ, and His Catholic Church. As I go about my days praying, reflecting, and observing all around me, I seem to come to a greater understanding of God's creation and marvel in its majesty. As I read the Sacred Scriptures, I keep thinking to myself, "How great is our God!" Then I take a look at what the Church has to say about that part of Scripture, and I feel even happier that I can know the Church (if I'm not horribly confused).

As I wake up in the morning, I say to the Lord, "Good morning, Lord. Today is another day where I can try to do Your Will of love throughout all the human beings I meet." I go through the day meeting nice people, hearing and listening what they have to say, and maybe serving their needs for the moment. To see someone a bit happier because of something I did and said, that the Lord would have wanted me to do or say, brings back to me a feeling of excellence, a feeling of inner peace.

What else does God require of me? To live justly and walk humbly with Him. What does God require of me? To love Him with all my heart, soul, and mind, and to love my brothers and sisters.

But why love the Church? Is it not just filled with idiots and sinners? Well, it is definitely filled

with idiots and sinners, but I feel like they are my kind of idiots and sinners. Everywhere I go, I find the Church.

When I went to Europe a few years back, I felt like I was in a foreign land (I suppose it is a foreign land, but still), with no familiar language or people or money. Everything seemed strange and different, everything seemed unfamiliar. But when I went to Church on the two Sundays I was there, all seemed right again. I was in a place that had familiar symbols, familiar styles of construction and layout, and familiar happenings.

The Holy Mass (Catholic Worship and Eucharist service) was not celebrated in English, but I knew exactly what was happening. I knew exactly what to respond, even though it was not English! I could figure out approximately what we were singing and praying, and I was able to say the Lord's Prayer (Pater Noster, in Latin) in the same language they were using for that prayer.

The way the priest looked, the way the altar looked, the way the congregation acted and responded was all so familiar and put me in a feeling as if I was home, as if I was part of a community, as if I was part of all those who believe, through the centuries, who dedicated their lives to God through faith, and whose faith is an inspiration for our faith in the Lord.

I get that same feeling when I go anywhere outside of the

Midwest. San Diego and San Francisco felt foreign, but going to Holy Mass reminded me that not all is different everywhere one goes. Even Washington, DC, seemed to be a strange militarized zone, scary and foreign, until I went to Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where things once again looked and felt familiar, where thousands of people I never met before seemed to believe in all that I believe in too.

And what could be better than the combination of faith in God and reason? Thinkers, Saints, theologians, regular folk, priests, bishops, philosophers, and poets throughout 2,000 years have found that the Catholic Church must have something right, must be doing something that encourages sinners to repent and bring us closer to God and His Holy Will.

Somehow, I feel connected with them all when I read sections of the Catechism, or books such as Augustine's Confessions. It is a strange feeling and strange set of feelings to have for a 20 year old (at least I think I'm 20!).

How could I feel connected with those long dead but alive in Christ? I don't know, but I feel it, and feel even more like the 10 Commandments and our Lord Jesus' New Covenant are there with us, and they affect me, and they affect all that I know and love. All of us brothers and sisters, all of us striving for union with God forever, all of us the Body of

Christ.

In being ourselves to the fullest potential, we should respect people and their property. We should treat others as we would like to be treated. We should be proper role models for those who look up to us. We should be all we can be.

When we embrace our neighbor in love we are being the best we can be. We should strive for a better world and we can do that at the individual level. "Be who you are and be that well" means that if we be ourselves and strive for our potential we will be doing our part in making this world a better place.

We should not want our pants to hang underneath our butt because we want to be respectful of those around us. We should also strive not to judge those who wear clothing we do not approve of because we do not know their circumstances.

The current culture in which we live allows us more freely to be the people we choose to be. It does not create a dichotomy of the mind and soul. I am free to be me in all circles of life without putting up a mask. We can be ourselves and discard society's oppressiveness. I am telling you to be the best individual that you can be. I am asking you to "be who you are and be that well".

You Want to Stick That Label on Me Now?

By Joseph Karpiak
Guest Writer



Photo Courtesy of <http://thestarforum.files.wordpress.com/>

According to Merriam-Webster's dictionary: A Label is a slip (as of paper or cloth) inscribed and affixed to something for identification or description. But labeling people has made itself into an American pastime; a person is either white, or black. Gay or straight. Dumb or smart. Society gives the individual a generic label, and fails to look deeper and too find out what kind of a person they are labeling.

Labels classify the individual, and do not allow them to overcome those labels. Once a person is labeled, they will always try to fight that certain label.

For example: If a person is labeled as homosexual, then most people will only see that they are gay and pretty much nothing else. Will they ever know the many talents this person has? Or the accomplishments they have achieved?

I would have to say no. Society

would see them as a being gay or a "faggot" or a "queer". Labels do nothing but bring another person down and make other people feel superior.

In the past few months, countless teenagers have ended their own lives in order to get away from the labeling and bullying they received in school and out. How many lives will be lost, until this epidemic finally stops?

My guess is that it will be countless numbers, because labeling people will never stop, unless bullying is stopped in schools. And it is not just high schools that are experiencing this problem; it can even be found here on Saint Joseph's Campus.

In the past few months, countless teenagers have ended their own lives in order to get away...

Yes, SJC has its cliques; there are the smart kids, the jocks, the cheerleaders, and the greatest people you will ever meet ("Mean Girls"). Just walk into our own cafeteria and you can see all the different groups and labels that occur on this campus.

Those labels are not as bad as some of the other names people are called on this campus. Faggot, Dyke, Whore, Slut, and

Womanizer. . . I have heard all of these words used to describe someone on this campus.

Labeling does hit close to home, and I do see that someone could possibly take their own life if they are pushed too far, even at SJC. I leave you with these words of wisdom, fellow Pumas. Next time you decide to call a person a name, or make fun of them, ask yourself who they really are on the inside.

Are you really that different from them? Do you really know them, and everything they stand for?

If you get to know a person, you could see who the true individual is and not just the label stuck onto their forehead. Words are our greatest weapons, and can destroy a person's entire life. So I ask you, do you want to stick that label on me now?

Have your voice be heard!

Are there people or groups on campus that you think deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the campus community?

Are their concerns in *the Observer* that need to be addressed?

Do you have any concerns with policies on campus?

Are there issues you think need to be discussed?

Tell us about it! The Student Forum is your way to speak out and have your voice be heard. Please send your letters to Eileen Mills-Groninger at emp6839@saintjoe.edu attached as a Word document.

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph's College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

Bad Religion, Decent Album

By Michael Garrity
Features Editor

Thirty years is a long time. It's an even longer time when you consider spending the majority of those thirty years travelling around with a group of dudes across the country and playing loud music in small clubs. However, California punk rock legends Bad Religion have just celebrated their thirtieth anniversary this year, and marked it with the release of their fifteenth studio album, *The Dissent of Man*.

With their latest release, what may be the smartest band currently performing (singer Greg Graffin is a Ph.D. who teaches evolutionary biology at UCLA) have certainly shown a maturation from their days as aggressive punk rockers in the 80s, although plenty of the sound that made them counter-cultural royalty remains in their music today. The first song, "The Day the Earth Stalled" is fast and aggressive, indistinguishable from

their earlier material in a lot of ways. Other songs are equally as reminiscent of their punk roots like "Only Rain," "The Resist Stance," and "Meeting of the Minds."

However, some of the tracks are a far departure from the sounds of youthful rebellion. "Won't Somebody" is a track indistinguishable from a lot of music to be found on any alternative rock station and the first single, "The Devil in Stitches," is a catchy, toe-tapping number that, despite the subject matter, is incredibly upbeat. They also dip into songs that sound more like Blink-182 and other pop-punk bands than the Bad Religion of twenty years ago, such as "Pride and the Pallor" and "Wrong Way Kids." The most unusual tracks on the album, however, are "Cyanide" and "Turn Your Back on Me," two songs that are simply pop/rock numbers, almost totally removed from what Bad Religion

fans would be used to. The most startling track, however, is the album's finale, "I Won't Say Anything," which is an acoustic-laced power ballad, unexpected at first but ultimately a wonderful way to conclude the disc.

Of course, this is still a Bad Religion album, and of course it is full of biting social commentary. Songs like "Pride and the Pallor," "Meeting of the Minds," "The Resist Stance," and "Ad Hominem," among others, tackle weighty issues with Graffin's well-known intellect and fearless provocation. Sure, this album may not be the favorite of most long-time Bad Religion fans, but it is certainly a worthy listen, as are all of their albums, and shows a range and diversity heretofore not fully undertaken by the band. If nothing else, *The Dissent of Man* may be the most mainstream album the band have ever written, and could possibly turn them on to a few new fans outside of the underground punk scene.

BAD RELIGION



The Dissent of Man

(Photo courtesy of: <http://blaremagazine.files.wordpress.com/2010/10/bad-religion-the-dissent-of-man.jpg?w=400&h=400>)

- 1. The Day That the Earth Stalled
- 2. Only Rain
- 3. The Resist Stance
- 4. Won't Somebody
- 5. The Devil in Stitches
- 6. Pride and the Pallor
- 7. Wrong Way Kids
- 8. Meeting of the Minds
- 9. Someone to Believe
- 10. Avalon
- 11. Cyanide
- 12. Turn Your Back on Me
- 13. Ad Hominem
- 14. Where the Fun Is
- 15. I Won't Say Anything

Producer
Joe Barresi

Persomel
Greg Graffin, Brett Gurewitz, Jay Bentley
Brian Baker, Greg Hetson, Brooks Wackerman

Record Label
Epitaph Records

GO DOWNLOAD THESE SONGS...NOW!

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cyanide | Pride and the Pallor | Ad Hominem |
| The Resist Stance | | Meeting of the Minds |

OVERALL GRADE

B

The Origin of Thanksgiving

A Satire of the Forgotten Holiday

By Andrew Dudich
Staff Writer

Over the years, time and capitalism have warped the origins of almost every holiday celebrated in America. Christmas has become a holiday honoring the gift-giving tradition of aeronautic fat people and Memorial Day has transformed into National Cook-Out Day. Americans seem to be proficient in the art of forgetting the meaning of traditions, and Thanksgiving is no exception. As soon as Halloween candy and costumes go on sale, the aisles are quickly morphed into Christmas Town. The sanctity of Thanksgiving has been forgotten. "Why?" you ask. Simply because Thanksgiving is not profitable

(unless you're a turkey farmer).

As we already begin to deck the halls and make out our Christmas lists, I encourage you to reflect upon the true meaning of Thanksgiving as it passes by unassumingly. The Internet has been out in my building for several hours, and everyone knows that it was impossible to conduct research before the advent of the worldwide web. As a result, my history may be a little hazy, forgetting a minor detail or two, but all of the important facts are intact.

Thanksgiving, or "tans-giving," as it was originally known, comes from the proud American heritage of military holidays. Similar to the story of D-Day, several American colonists rushed upon the

shores of Massachusetts in the early 1600s. Waiting in the dense forests were several Native Americans which were incorrectly dubbed, "Indians," or more often, "Tans," due to their dark-colored skin. While this was the first true American invasion, our troops did not immediately attack. Instead, they shrewdly feigned weakness and hunger during the harsh winter that followed their landing.

As predicted, the Tans were moved with pity for our soldiers and provided our men with provisions to last the winter. The following spring, the Tans showed the colonists how to farm the local soil and what new, mysterious plants were valuable. The growing season passed peacefully as the colonists acquired all of the information they needed from the Tans. Autumn arrived in Massachusetts and harvest began. The yield was bountiful, and our soldiers invited the Tans to a feast to celebrate. This was the very first Tans-giving in America, honoring the Tans' open sharing of knowledge.

Because the Tans had grown trusting of the Americans, the soldiers caught the natives completely off guard. They had presented the colonists with all of the information they needed to annihilate the Tans. The natives were completely out-numbered and were quickly slaughtered. The massacre continued over the next 300 years as tribe after tribe was wiped out. Only in recent years has the government ceased aggression. To apologize for its cruelty, America generously gave the Tans their own land again,



Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving may be the only holiday celebrated in the United States where we eat it's most beloved figure.

(Photo courtesy of: http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_b_nvOE9EItM/Sw7hYdgz4ml/AAAAAADAQ/nAvXqXiZDkY/s1600/Thanksgiving+by+AngELofREbellion.jpg)

conveniently located in the desert away from white civilization. They also taught the natives valuable trades such as how to become alcoholics and gamblers.

As Tans-giving approaches again this year, let us all reflect upon the power of the American people. We are a county that will

fight for its values, whether that be land, oil, or God's manifest destiny. As we thank veterans for their service on Veteran's Day, thank a Native American on Tans-giving for their hospitality and information during those first, difficult years of colonization.



Thanksgiving may be the holiday that best represents the American spirit, for better or worse.

(Photo courtesy of: <http://www.amovingtrain.com/catalog/images/manifest-destinybig2.jpg>)



(Photo courtesy of: http://www.clipartpol.com/_thumbs/pd/holiday/thonksiving/thanks-giving_hoppy_2.png)

PERCY JACKSON

Bringing Ancient Myths to Modern Times

By Natalie Katona
Staff Writer

A series of books I have recently fallen in love with is Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. The books follow a teenage boy, Percy, who not only has to go through the trials of puberty and growing up but also has to deal with the fact that he is the son of Poseidon. As a "demi-god," Percy is expected to fight off monsters from many of the ancient Greek myths. I have always been a huge mythology buff and these books really celebrate a lot of my favorite myths. They take characters that I have grown up loving and bring them to a modern day setting. The books are geared for a young adult audience and are a really quick read. The stories move fast and there is a ton of action that teens and adults can really get into.

My favorite thing about the novels is the way they portray the Greek Gods. Percy Jackson has to spend each summer at Half-Blood Camp. This summer camp is where Percy and other demi-gods learn to fight and battle the monsters they will come in contact with. The people who run the camp are Chiron (the centaur who trained heroes such as Achilles) and Dionysus, the god of wine. Dionysus is bitter about his job at the camp and offers a lot of comedy to the story. I found it hilarious that Dionysus has been

banished to camp by Zeus and is punished by not being allowed to drink wine. Instead, Dionysus has fallen to a caffeine addiction and is rarely seen at camp without a Diet Coke in his hands.

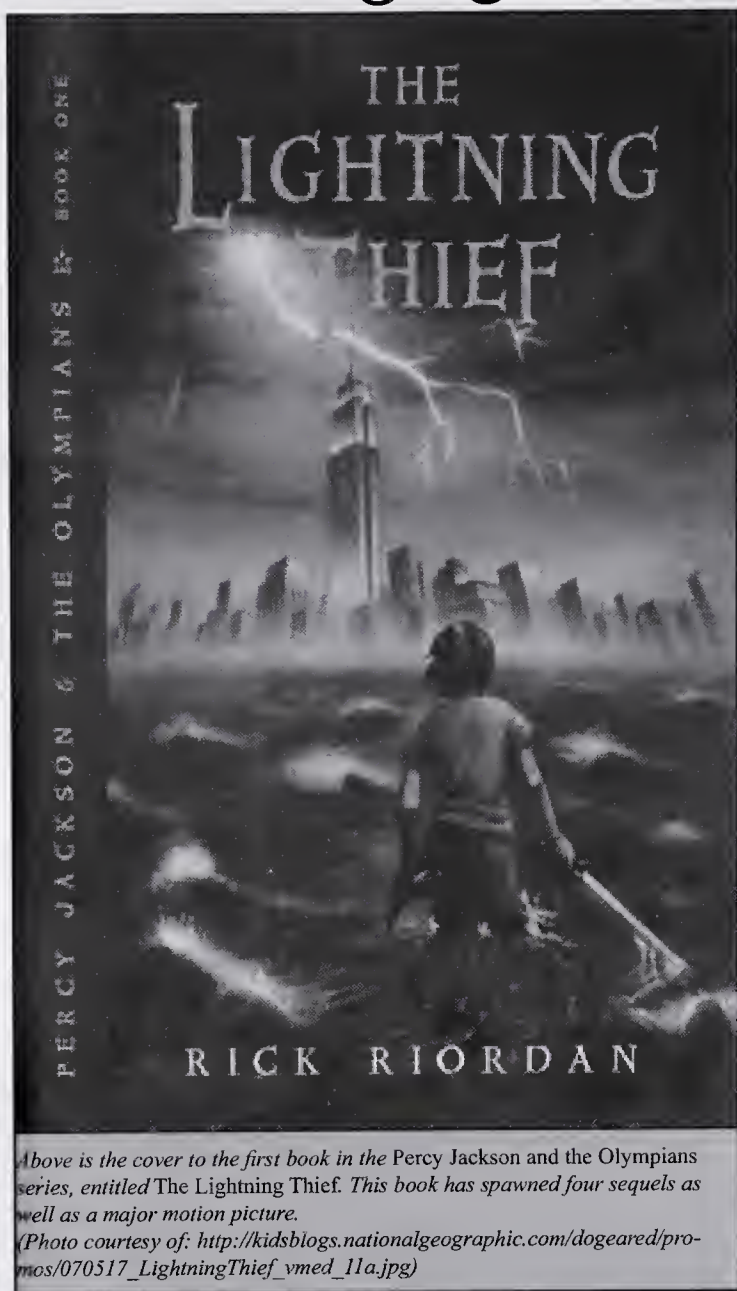
Percy's father, Poseidon, is another one of my favorite characters. The god of the sea is portrayed as a surfer who wears a Hawaiian shirt. The relationship between Percy and Poseidon is a strained one. There is a rule where the gods cannot directly affect the lives of their children so Percy grew up without his father. Even though there is that strain the two of them really seem to understand each other and you get the feeling that Poseidon really does care for his son in his own unique way.

Ares is usually depicted as a villain in the novels and Percy has the most trouble getting along with this god. He has been modernized as a biker who breeds feelings of anger whenever he is around. The gods are always popping up in the lives of demi-gods much like they did for the heroes of Ancient Greece. They offer their aide and help whenever they feel like interfering.

Percy is constantly calling upon myths of the past to help him in his adventures. While he goes into a little detail about the myths themselves general background knowledge of Greek mythology would be helpful to the reader. I think that kids would

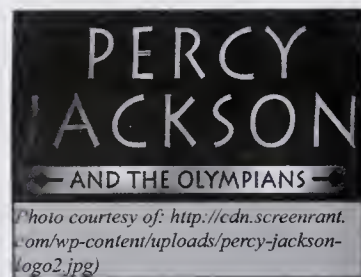
find as much enjoyment in the series as I have. They can really relate to Percy and his friends.

When Percy isn't battling monsters he's living a semi-normal life with his mother and his friends. He's a constant troublemaker at school due to the fact that monsters are always finding him and destroying parts of the school he's attending. Percy also battles a problem with dyslexia like most demi-god children. His brain is wired to understand ancient Greek instead of English so he has problems with reading. This was an important aspect for Rick Riordan because his son also was not an avid reader and neither was Rick when he was a child. Riordan really wants to be able to capture readers who really were never excited about reading. Throughout the novel Percy also experiences problems with friendships and with blossoming romances. Kids will be able to relate to Percy and his friends while also learning something about mythology. This series is a really enjoyable way to get kids back into reading.



Above is the cover to the first book in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, entitled *The Lightning Thief*. This book has spawned four sequels as well as a major motion picture.

(Photo courtesy of: http://kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/dogearred/projects/070517_LightningThief_vmed_11a.jpg)



Documentary Full of Mysterious Surprises and Alarming Revelations

By Michael Garrity
Features Editor

The trick to reviewing the 2010 documentary (and film festival darling) *Catfish*, about a New York City photographer whose film school friends record the events of his online relationship with a girl from Michigan, is not to give any of it away. For anyone who has seen the trailer for the film (and if you haven't, I'd recommend checking it out right now, as it is one of the best previews to a movie I've ever seen!), they know that all of the excitement of actually watching the movie is the surprise that awaits our assumed protagonist, Yaniv "Nev" Schulman. In fact, each viewer's reaction to the film's surprise is part of what makes it such a special story, so to have the reveal spoiled would seemingly invalidate the film.

What I can tell you about the film is this, Nev is a 22-year-old photographer living in New York City, and one day he receives a package in the mail of a painting of one of his pictures. A letter that arrived with the package claims that a young girl from Michigan, who is an art prodigy, did the painting. Thanks to the marvelous world of modern technology,

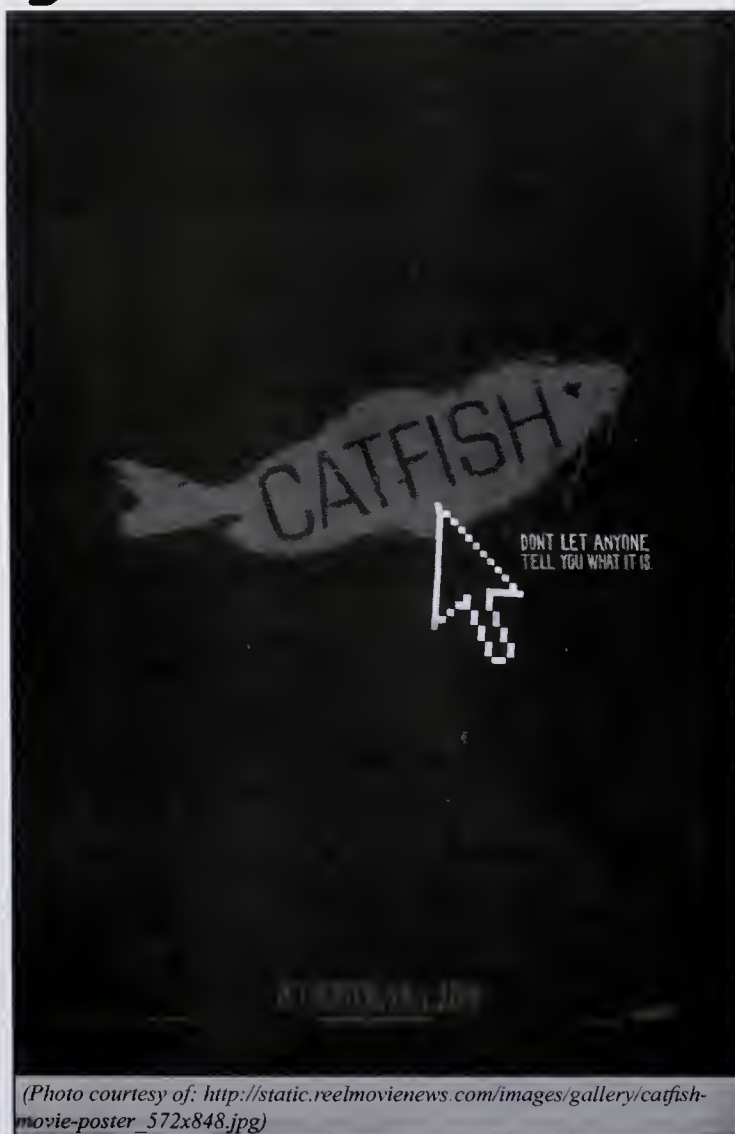
especially the social networking site Facebook, Nev becomes quick friends with the whole family, and begins to form an intimate friendship with Megan, the older sister of the young painter. After Nev and his friends begin to suspect that Megan may not be behaving totally honestly, things begin to unravel and the story culminates with the three of them travelling to their small town in Michigan to confront the family and get answers.

What makes *Catfish* so interesting and engrossing to watch at first is the suspense created by the obvious mystery faced by Nev and company. However, the mystery alone does not make the film, as even the first half of it, which deals mostly with Nev and his communication and relationship with this family and girl, is just as fascinating to watch.

It is a real-life, documented account of a modern digital relationship in a quickly changing world. Every minute of the film, even after the big reveal, will keep the viewers on the edges of their seats in anticipation of what will happen to these people next on their strange and unexpected journey. However, the film is far more than just an outsider's

look at the unusual lives of the people involved; it is also an in-depth look at the role of technology and social networking in modern society, and how it can be manipulated in ways that most people would probably never imagine. The film also deals with issues of identity in a world where one's deepest desires can be manifested and brought about through a computer monitor; it is an unsettling look at 21st Century relationships.

Though some critics have challenged the truth of the film, the arguments tend to hold little weight. A more insightful criticism has been the motivations of the three men (Nev and the filmmakers), and, perhaps more, their pretentious hipster attitudes and smug, arrogant personas. Throughout the film, it becomes harder and harder for the audience to root for or care about the self-interested trio, especially Nev. One thing is for sure, though, *Catfish* is an addicting tale that will undoubtedly evoke some sort of reaction from everyone who watches it. This film will leave you talking about it for days after it is over, and is a must see for anyone involved in the social networking revolution.



Puma Football Over for the 2010 Season

By Corey Dowds
Staff Writer

The Pumas were lead in rushing by Jashon Banks and Gerrick Hall. Banks averaged 70 yards a game this season, has over 700 yards net gain rushing, as well as 11 touchdowns. Hall had an impressive contribution as well, with nearly 700 yards rushing as well, just under 70 yards rushing per game, with an additional 2 touchdowns.

Hall also flaunted the best average rush, with 5.4 yards per attempt, where Banks boasted an also impressive 5.1 yards per attempt. Other main contributors to rushing were Darryl Jordan and Mack Ogletree, who had a little over 300 yards rushing combined.

Billy Vandemekt also contributed 5 rushing touchdowns as well. Vandemekt was also our most effective quarterback, with nearly 900 yards on the season through the air. Mack Ogletree and Mike Hladik also contributed yards through the air.

The major defensive leader was Spike Rossi, who led the team in solo tackles, as well as interceptions. The defensive leader this season said this about the season. "Overall, it was a season of ups and downs" said Rossi. "It was somewhat of a disappointment.

Our 5-5 record does

not do our team justice as far as leadership, talent, and performance our team was capable of." Rossi explains. "We just let a couple games slip through our hands. It's a learning experience though.

You learn more from the games you lose, than from the ones you win. It's just too bad for those guys that are seniors that are graduating this year, that they won't have any more chances to suit up with the rest of us.

But they left their mark on St. Joseph's College and the football tradition here, and because of that we are all thankful." Rossi had this to say about ending the season as a senior. "It's hard seeing the guys I came in with graduate, but because I have another year of eligibility left, I'm going to come back and try my best to continue this legacy that my class started."

The Pumas were close to getting the Great Lakes Football Conference Title but with the loss to Missouri Science and Technology, this game would have put us 3-0 in the conference and 6-4 overall. The game was a close one but in the end Missouri S & T won.

The Great Lakes Valley Conference plans to begin sponsoring football in the fall of 2012. This plan was announced shortly after William Jewell

College was admitted to the league, giving the GLVC 16 members.

Six football playing members including William Jewell, Quincy University, University of Indianapolis, and GLFC members Kentucky Wesleyan College, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and Saint Joseph's College. McKendree University was admitted into the GLVC as the league's 17th member and 7th football playing member.

On October 7, 2010, it was announced that the GLVC had accepted Central State University and Urbana University as associate members in football beginning with the 2012 season.



David Wallace getting ready for a tackle. (Courtesy of SJC Athletics page)

VOLLEYBALL SPIKED AT THE END

By Paige Kirkland
Staff Writer

This season has turned out to be quite the experience for the Saint Joseph's Pumas. The girls opened the season with a victory over Alderson Broadus College with a score of 3-1 on the morning of September 3, 2010.

The game began with a tough start for the Saint Joseph's Pumas with Alderson winning the first set. As the game went on, however, the Pumas increasingly began to step up their game. Catching on to impeccable teamwork and several successful serves later, the Pumas defeated Alderson with claiming victory over the last three sets of the game.

Unfortunately for the Lady Pumas, Clarion University walked away with a victory against Saint Joseph's College later that same day. This was a day of both victory and loss for the Puma volleyball team. And their journey of building up a strong team and finishing out the season strong did not end here.

Overall, the girls have come together and made this volleyball season the best one possible. Their record for the entire season is 11-16, and they have improved individually, while at the same time, learning from one another at each game. Within this score, their conference record turned

out to be 5-9 as the season reached the end of its career. With these records, the Saint Joseph women's volleyball team has every right to be proud of what they have accomplished.

While experiencing a battle between loss and victory, the Saint Joseph's Pumas have come into every game strong and with high expectations for the team. At times, these expectations were difficult to meet with the stiff competition our volleyball team often faced. However, our girls grew in strength and stamina with self as well as team motivation. On the road, the Saint Joseph's volleyball team has kept their busy season very productive. A couple of highlights from their games include traveling to compete at the Cedarville Invitational in Ohio on September 10th. Over the course of this two-day tournament, the Saint Joseph's Pumas finished with a record of 2-2.

With confidence and determination, the girls proceeded to play against Quincy University. The Pumas defeated Quincy 3-0 and this pushed them to .500, with an 8-8 record. This win also increased their winning streak to 4 games. In the GLVC/SLIAC Crossover opener, the girls lost two games and won one game.

The first match was against Saginaw Valley State, who defeated the Pumas 3-1. The

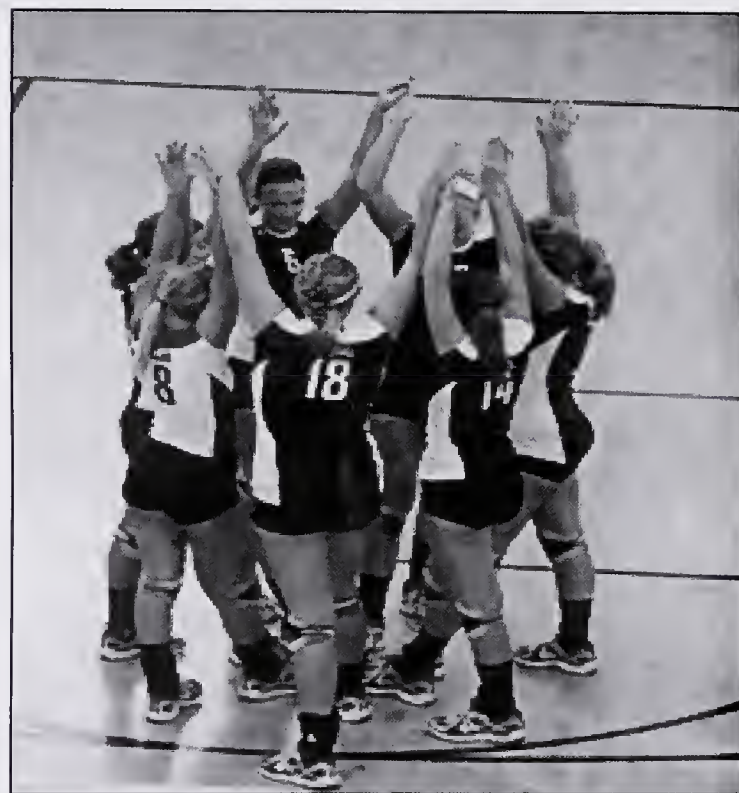
second game of the opener was against the University of Findlay. The Pumas fell 3-0, but stepped up their game to earn a 3-0 win over Lake Erie College.

The SJC Pumas went on to lose four games back-to-back. However, they were determined to finish the season with a bang and won their last game of the season against the Maryville University Saints. The girls won the first two sets, but the Saints fought back to win the third set. The Pumas closed out the game winning the fourth set, making the overall score 3-1.

During this game, Sharon Freund and Sarah Frantz delivered a stunning game, giving SJC one of its best offensive matches, both holding a hitting percentage above .400. Jill Schopieray became head coach of the volleyball team in March of 2006. In the four seasons she has led the Pumas, she has a record of 45-72.

Prior to her career at Saint Joseph's, Schopieray spent two years as an assistant coach at Bradley University. Along with all of these great players, a team member that I am sure she is very proud of is Sharon Freund. Sharon Freund is worthy of recognition for a couple of reasons.

She earned Third Team distinction from the All-Conference list released from the Great Lake Valley Conference.



Volleyball team celebrates. (Courtesy of SJC Athletic page)

She was the first SJC teammate to be selected since the 2008 season. She led the Pumas offensively with 297 kills, 272 digs, and 29 total blocks.

Overall, these girls are improving dramatically as a team, and they can certainly look forward to the upcoming seasons. Lessons learned from each game have brought them closer as one compatible unit, and they have shown how their teamwork has developed and improved with each game.

Based on this season, the girls came out of the competitions knowing what they needed to work on and displayed their improvement with the next match. This smart approach is definitely expected to continue. Their strategies for playing are also getting better and better.

The Saint Joseph's Pumas are going in the right direction, and even though one season has come to an end, they are anticipating the volleyball seasons to come with excitement and a positive attitude.



SJC Sinks Lakers

By: Ken Badylak
Sports Information Director

Tatiana Ortiz (RJR., Chicago, Ill./St. Louis) scored 17 first half points to aid in the fast start for the Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team on Sunday afternoon. SJC evened its overall record with a 69-63 victory over Lake Superior State University at Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse.

The Lakers (0-1) scored the first five points of the game, but their lead was short-lived as the Pumas (1-1) tied the game with precision outside shooting. SJC held a shooting percentage over 60 percent for the first 15 minutes of the game en route to building a 35-25 lead.

Nevertheless, LSSU converted a pair of three-point baskets to cut its disadvantage to 35-31. Britney Cruse (Jr., Merrillville, Ind./Merrillville) answered by scoring the final four points of the half to give SJC a 39-31 lead at intermission.

The Pumas extended their lead to 11 points within the first five minutes of the second half, before the Lakers went on a 10-0 run. Jasmine Brown buried a three-point basket to cap off the rally that took just over four minutes.

SJC remained patient as they did not trail in the second half. With Cruse directing the offense, the Pumas began to rebuild a comfortable lead. Jen Szala (Jr., Chicago, Ill./Marian Catholic) converted a three-point play with less than six minutes remaining to give SJC a 64-55 lead.

However, the Lakers, in a tremendous flurry of scoring forced four turnovers in pursuit of an 8-0 run that cut the Pumas'

lead to 64-63 with just over three minutes remaining. Kate Novak (RJR., Homer Glenn, Ill./Bradley) gave SJC a 66-63 lead by converting a fast-break lay-up. Szala stole the ball Maria Blazejewski and found Novak in-stride to for the easy basket.

Cruse and Ortiz closed out the game by converting clutch free-throws in the final two minutes. Tatiana Ortiz finished with a game-high 25 points while Britney Cruse added 13 points. Kate Novak totaled 10 points and a team-high six rebounds.

The Pumas will host Oakland City University on November evening at Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 pm CST.



Katie Novak taking the shoot (Photo courtesy of SJC sports page and Father Tim McFarland C.PP.S)

The Rangers Run into a Giant Problem

By: Jeremy Butterfield
Sports Editor

This year's Major League Baseball season was filled with pitchers having shutouts and exciting finishes. Nothing that happened during the regular season matters.

During the playoffs, records go out the window and it all comes down to who has the best team. Most people were hoping the Yankees were not going to win another World Series title. Lucky for most MLB fans they were knocked off by the American League Champs, Texas Rangers.

The Rangers would go on to face the San Francisco Giants. Each team brought something different to the table. The Rangers had one of the best offences in all of the MLB. The Rangers had two Silver Slugger Award winners with Josh Hamilton and Vladimir Guerrero. Hamilton had thirty-two home runs throughout the season and also set a franchised record with a .359 hitting percentage that also lead the league to give him his first batting title. He was also in first in On-Base Plus Slugging with a 1.044. They both had amazing years and were

able to help the team get into the positions they were in at the end of the year.

At the same time the Giants had one of the best pitching and defenses in the league. The Giants had one of the best closers in the league with Brain Wilson who had forty-eight saves throughout the season. They also have one of the best young pitchers in the league in a twenty-six year old Tim Lincecum. He was drafted in 2006 by the Giants. With only one year in the minor league he has three years of major league experience under his belt. Lincecum also had sixteen wins this year with two hundred thirty-one strikeouts throughout the year.

Going in to the playoffs the Giants had a two game lead over the Rangers. With such a close record people were thinking that the series could have gone into six or seven games, with a surprising strong bat the Giants won in five games with scores going up to eleven. Also Lincecum had won the one game and the fifth game to win the title. The Rangers were hoping to win the series with having such a good offence and stopping the Giants from scoring.

The exact opposite happened with the Giants scoring and hitting like they have been missing most of the year, also the Rangers pitcher gave up hits like it was a garbage sale.

The Rangers were happy and were hoping for their first World Series Title because this same year was the first time they won the American League title and only the fourth time they have won the West Division title. From the other side of the perspective the Giants have won seven West Division titles, with twenty-one National League titles. From both of those this year is also included just like the 2010 World Series title is included in six World Series titles.

With the 2010 season over, this means just one thing; it's time to get ready for the next season. The awards for the 2010 season are going to be handed out over the next two weeks. None of that matters when it comes down to what team is better and that is why teams are starting to make trades already. The baseball season may be over, but true baseball never ends.

Puma Athlete Profile:

By: Jeremy Butterfield
Sports Editor
Roger Michels



Roger Michels is a sophomore at SJC, during his time he has played the past two years on the tennis team. His major is BioChem. He hopes to be a doctor when he grows up.

Hometown: Greenwood, IN

Nickname: Roge

How long have you been playing tennis?: I have been playing Tennis for 10 years, medically I could not play any other sport but now I can.

What is your favorite other sport besides Tennis: Football

Do you like Singles or Doubles better for Tennis?: Doubles

Who is your favorite doubles partner?: Matt Slawson

What band do you have to listen to on your iPod to get ready for a match?: AC/DC

What movie can you watch over and over again?: Rocky 1-5

What food could you eat forever?: Pumpkin pie

What was your first job you ever had?: Coaching a summer tennis camp.

Did you like it?: Yes, I enjoyed helping the kids

Who is your Best Friend Forever?: Kert Tao

What is your favorite video game?: Halo: Reach

What is one thing that people don't know about you?: I'm not British

Favorite pro sports team: Cincinnati Bengals

And lastly, what is your favorite quote?: "You have diabetes and you can't eat cupcakes." - Dr. Cox



The Commissioner's Trophy is hoisted after victory. (Courtesy of Google Image)



The San Francisco Giants logo symbolizes the victory of the team. (Courtesy of Google Image)

Karma the Cosmos

By Crystal Gaze



Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)
Well you have found yourself giving up on one thing after another. Fortunately, something good is headed your way, and it's here to stay.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May. 19)
There's a time to walk and a time to run, and this is a time to run. Some baggage just isn't worth it, so put everything down, admire it, and then run in the opposite direction. Notice how fast you're going without the added weight.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
While you have recently started shirking responsibilities in favor of having fun, many have noticed, and a few people have stopped relying on you. For a few weeks try working to both your and their standards.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
Not that the world isn't also mourning your sudden tea

shortage, but you have turned a molehill into a mountain. Maybe switch to coffee, see what happens.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
Get outside, it's going to snow soon! You're the outdoorsy type, so get out there and start enjoying the winter weather! You have been cooped up inside for far too long.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)
You haven't been feeling well for ages, but that is about to change very soon. Start some sort of exercise routine in order to get your body moving, it could really boost your immune system.

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
Since things have finally quieted down in your life, take some time to figure out what you want when the storm is over. You can't battle the rain forever, so what are you going

to do when there aren't any new storms to weather?

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Everyday, the world learns something new about you. You are full of joy and surprises, and everyone who knows you appreciates your friendship. Don't be afraid to over-extend yourself, the world is excited to see more of you!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
Your favorite time of the year is approaching - the holidays! And while you will enjoy yourself during them, you will find yourself to be quite busy. But don't let your work get you down, because it will have an amazing payoff.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 1)
Change might be in store for you, though you are yet to notice it out of sheer reluctance. You have a lot going for you in your life, but the things with which

you are not pleased are putting a damper on everything else. If you cannot change this, then it might be time for you to make some changes to your life as a whole.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
For you, lately, life is just life. Not much has been going your way, and you have become accustomed to this recently. Instead of becoming complacent, you should try using your stagnance to incite you to action! It could lead to wonderful things!

Pisces (Feb. 18-Mar. 20)
You have finally committed yourself to your future, but you might not have made the correct decision. Take some time to think about the choices you have made recently, and then decide whether or not the road on which you are traveling is the road you actually want to travel.

Overheard Say What?

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to mbp6978@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

~
"Snakes don't have hair!"

~
"Not all old men are dirty."

~
"I have so little luck that when I open fortune cookies, they're empty."

~
"These Dutch (in reference to the grocers Strack & VanTil) are simply being ridiculous!"

~
"We had an interesting discussion of the difference between stabbing and shanking. Fork - stab. Sharpened spoon - shank."

~
"Creepy Uncle = Crunkle."

~
"But I wanna ride my husband to work too!"

What are these crazy characters saying? Create crazy comments for the people in the photographs with your own input, banter, or silly phrases and send your responses to mbp6978@saintjoe.edu to see your responses printed in the next issue! Please keep the responses PG-13 and get ready for another photograph in the upcoming issue. Also, be sure to include your name and year in your response.

This week's photograph:



Responses from last week:

Girl: "L plus 8 equals Late!"
Guy: "...."

Girl: "Couples costumes rule!"
Guy: "My mom was so wrong, having a girlfriend is NOT fun."

Girl: "Isn't fun being Rachel and Finn from Glee?"
Guy: "No. You're not gonna make me sing, are you?"

Guy: "I'm not drunk enough for this."
Girl: "That's not funny, you said this was okay."

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for September 20
(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

Due Date (R)
Mon.-Thurs. 3:15, 5:15, 7:15

Paranormal Activity 2 (R)
Mon-Thurs: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20

Unstoppable (PG-13)
Mon-Thurs: 3:05, 5:05, 7:05

Megamind (PG)
Mon.-Thurs: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10

Red (PG-13)
Mon-Thurs: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00

Coming Soon!

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part One and Tangled

The Ritz Cinema

Movies for September 20
(219) 866-0086

No current films available

Coming Soon!

Alpha and Omega and Due Date

Dating Dan: Advice from a Man about Town

Staff Writer Daniel Zimmer, Junior

Why did the date I have scheduled for tonight stand me up?

The women in my life have always had a similar problem: they think the fact that the dating world is not working is somehow their fault. You're not pretty enough, not smart enough, etc. Enough pressures have already been put upon women by society, so why do you add to it yourselves? Your Mr. No-show is the real problem: he's a lazy lover. Actions speak louder than words, and you have already put forth the effort of getting ready, only to be let down by a cancellation or weak excuse. He must have thought he had you in the bag. So don't go on anymore one-sided dates, and I hope these men realize they don't have you in the bag, at all.